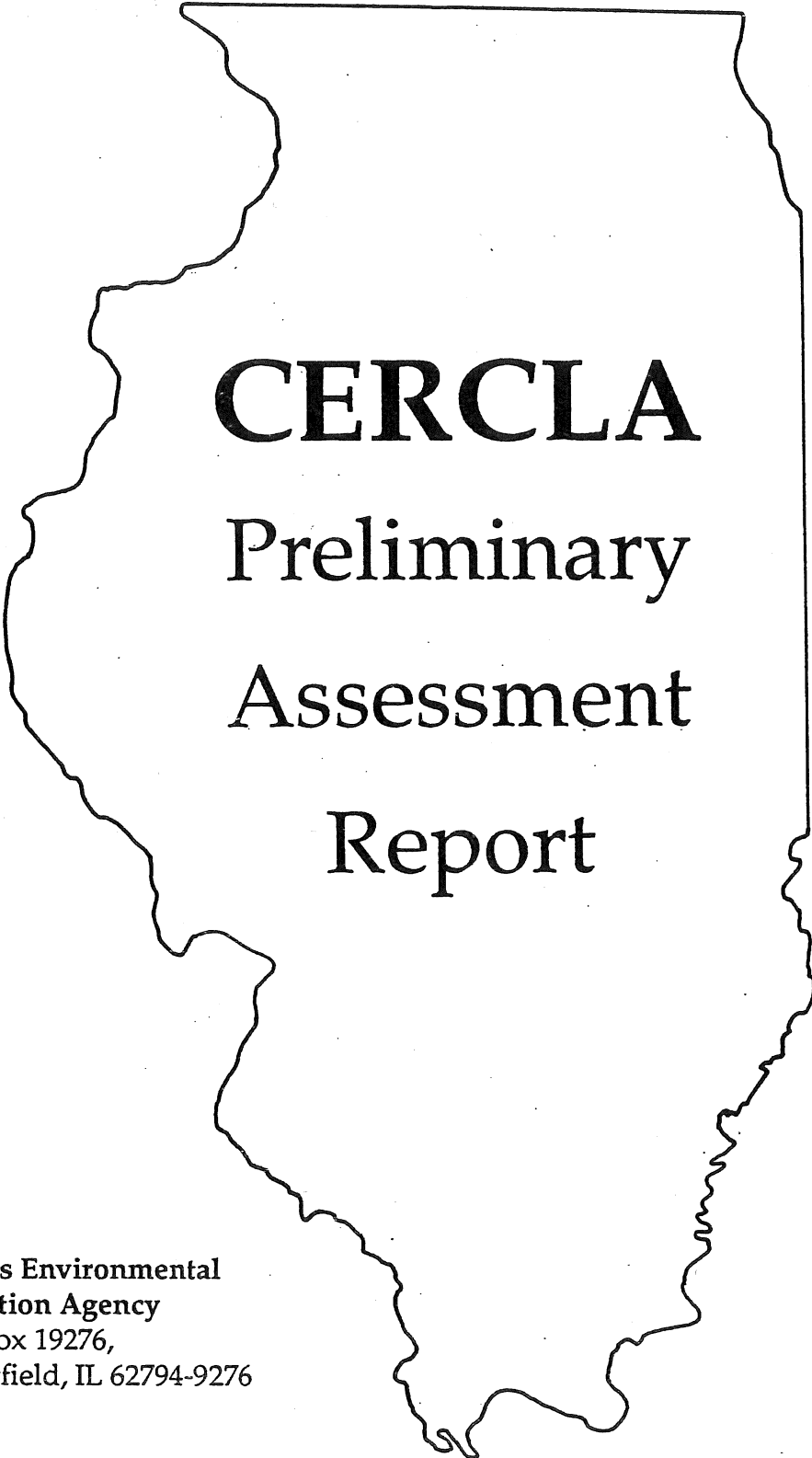


L0310000000-Cook Co.
Gordon Site
ILD 984837815
SF/HRS



CERCLA

Preliminary

Assessment

Report



Illinois Environmental
Protection Agency
P.O. Box 19276,
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

RELEASED
DATE 2/7/97
RIN #
INITIALS J.P.

Confidential Material May be Enclosed

CERCLA PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
GORDON SITE
ILD 984837815

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Under authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), Site Assessment Unit conducted a Preliminary Assessment (PA) of the Gordon Site in Cook County, Illinois. The Gordon Site was placed on the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) on September 23, 1991. This action was the result of a citizen complaint to Region V of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) that the complainant had visually observed 55-gallon drums at the scrap yard. In 1991 the U.S. EPA's CERCLA Removal Program contracted Metcalf & Eddy, Incorporated to conduct a title search of the property. No further action has been taken to date.

The mailing address given for the Gordon Site is 1700 South Stewart Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. The Gordon Site is located northeast of the intersection of Interstate 55 (the Adlai Stevenson Expressway) and Interstate 90-94 (the Dan Ryan Expressway) near downtown Chicago. The site specific location is described as the Western 1/2 of Section 21, Township 39 North, Range 14 East.

The areas immediately north and west of the facility are composed primarily of abandoned industrial and commercial

complexes. The nearest residences are brownstones located approximately 700 feet southwest of the facility. One of the main switching yards for the Amtrak Rail Company in the Chicago area is located immediately east of the property. Just beyond the Amtrak switching yard is the South Branch of the Chicago River which flows past the site approximately 420 feet due east of the property. It meanders around the property to the south continuing on in a southwesterly direction. Approximately three miles downstream of the site the river eventually straightens out and becomes the Sanitary and Ship Canal.

SITE HISTORY

According to a Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from the year 1915, the property which S. Gordon & Sons, Incorporated occupies was a bridge manufacturer. Apparently the bridge company manufactured the pieces necessary to build the bridges as well as construct them. Metal casting and other practices normally associated with the construction of foundry items found in bridges such as girders and support beams probably took place on the property during the bridge manufacturers ownership.

In 1964 S. Gordon & Sons, Incorporated purchased part of the property from the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne, and Chicago Railway Company. In 1969 the corporation purchased more of the property from American Oil Company. Then in 1977 S. Gordon &

Sons purchased other parcels from Amoco Oil Company. In 1986 the City of Chicago transferred ownership of two more parcels and the vacated alleys running through the facility to Gordon & Sons. None of the forwarding addresses or phone numbers left by the S. Gordon & Sons corporation were still good, as a result the author was unable to contact any of the partners.

The Gordon Site was a metal reclamation and recycling operation. The operators purchased scrap metal from various vendors and either rendered and recycled the product or sold it whole. These operations took place from 1964 when S. Gordon & Sons began purchasing portions of the property up until some time in 1988. Historical aerial photographs gave no indication that incineration was employed as a disposal method at this facility. There is also no indication of what may have been contained in the 55-gallon drums that brought this site to the attention of the EPA.

SITE RECONNAISSANCE

An on-site reconnaissance of the Gordon Site was conducted on July 7, 1993. The IEPA was represented by Mr. Mark Weber and Mr. Pete Sorensen of the CERCLA Site Assessment Unit. The present owners of the property, S. Gordon & Sons, Incorporated were not contacted prior to the reconnaissance and therefore was not present during the site visit. The property is roughly four acres in size. The most recent

operation at the site was the scrap yard owned and operated by S. Gordon & Sons, Incorporated.

The buildings that remain on-site have been gutted. The main building on the east side of the property was burned out in a fire but remains standing. During the walk through of the facility, there was little visible evidence of what past activities may have taken place at the facility. None of the scrap piles prevalent in historical aerial photography remained at the facility. The property is currently littered with demolition waste and piles of tires throughout. The only evidence of 55-gallon drums at the facility were two hardened resinous type substances in the shape of the drums they were once contained in (refer to photo log).

The topography of the Gordon Site is relatively flat except towards the eastern edge of the property where it drops off towards the Amtrack switching area and the South Branch of the Chicago River. There are two buildings located on the site that were used by the salvage operation. One of them is situated north and south almost the entire length of the property along the eastern boundary. The other building is located in the western section of the property and was probably home to the S. Gordon & Sons offices.

S. Gordon & Sons, Incorporated has not been investigated or fallen under any regulation by the Illinois Environmental

Protection Agency at this property or any of their other holdings they may have had prior to this investigation. There have been no past sampling events conducted at the facility. Given the facts that this site was a scrap yard and that PCB and metal contaminants are usually associated with these operations, the probability that contaminants are prevalent at the facility is high.

EXPOSURE PATHWAYS

GROUNDWATER PATHWAY

The geology of the area underneath the Gordon Site is characterized by clays, sands, and gravels down to 70 feet underlain by Silurian dolomite to 315 feet. This dolomite can be used as an aquifer, but generally has a less than average water yielding potential. Shale extends down from approximately 315 to 515 feet and can be considered a confining layer, separating the upper dolomite aquifer from the deeper aquifer systems. Limestone primarily underlies the shale from 515 to 1,275 feet, except for 125 feet of sandstone from 845 to 955 feet. Sandstone underlies the limestone from 1,275 to 1,530 feet deep. Below the sandstone are interbedded layers of shale and limestone from 1,530 feet to 1,820 feet deep. The Potsdam limestone underlies the interbedded layers of shale and limestone.

According to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Public Water Supplies and Illinois State Water

Survey well logs, there are no records of private or public drinking water wells within four miles of the Gordon Site. The wells documented in the area are used primarily for industrial processes. The City of Chicago obtains drinking water from Lake Michigan which supplies water to many of the suburbs as well.

A release of hazardous materials from the Gordon Site to the underlying aquifer is possible, but the fact that the few wells in the area draw water from such great depths leads this author to believe that this pathway is not a primary concern.

SURFACE WATER PATHWAY

There was no evidence of a well defined run-off route to the South Branch of the Chicago River during the site recon. Run-off from the site most likely enters directly into storm sewers on either South Stewart Avenue or Harvard Avenue and then would be discharged to a creek or river. The closest surface water is the South Branch of the Chicago River located approximately 420 feet east and south of the site. Lake Michigan is approximately 5,200 feet due east of the site and is used for recreational purposes and as the primary source of drinking water for the City of Chicago and many of the outlying suburbs.

The site is located outside of a 500 year floodplain as

designated by the Federal Management Agency Flood Insurance Map for the City of Chicago, Illinois. A review conducted by Mr. Richard Lutz of the Illinois Department of Conservation indicates no sensitive environments on-site, within a one mile radius of the site, or along the 15 mile downstream limit. The number of wetland areas within a one mile radius of the site is fairly limited with a total coverage of approximately three acres. The South Branch of the Chicago River, located approximately 420 feet east and south of the facility, has been identified as a wetland by the United States Department of the Interior. The Chicago River straightens out approximately three miles downstream of the site and becomes the Sanitary and Ship Canal. It has also been identified as a wetland and is used as a fishery.

SOIL EXPOSURE PATHWAY

The soil exposure pathway is also a pathway of concern at the Gordon Site. Contaminants normally associated with scrap and salvage operations are metals and polychlorinated biphenyls. These contaminants are not usually considered highly mobile, but the possibility for them to impact the surrounding community does exist. Access to the facility is completely unrestricted. During the site visit the recon team observed evidence of homeless persons residing in the abandoned buildings on the property. The estimated population exposed to contamination via the soil route is:

<u>Distance</u>	<u>Population</u>
On a source:	0
0 - 1/4 mile:	875*
1/4 - 1/2 mile:	7,580*
1/2 - 1 mile:	23,400*

*These numbers are estimated using 1990 Bureau of the Census data.

AIR EXPOSURE PATHWAY

There has been no known documentation or complaints of air contamination from the site. There are no schools or day-care facilities located within 200 feet of the site. During the site recon evidence of a large incinerator was observed in the northern portion of the long building on the east side of the property. Whether it was used by the scrap yard or a previous owner is impossible to ascertain.

The citizen complaint that brought this site to the attention of the EPA gave no indication that incineration was taking place at the facility. As stated earlier in this report, historical aerial photographs revealed nothing that would indicate incineration took place at S. Gordon & Sons scrap yard.

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Illinois Department of Transportation aerial photographs, Bureau of Location and Environment, Aerial Survey Section, aerial photos from 1965, 1973, and 1988.

United States Environmental Protection Agency, title search of the S. Gordon & Sons, Inc. property, Cook County, Illinois, ILD# 984837815.

Illinois State Geological Survey, Groundwater Geology for Northeastern Illinois, Circular 139, 1965.

Illinois State Water Survey, well logs for T.39N, R.14E., Section 21.

Lutz, Richard W., Illinois Department of Conservation, Division of Planning, Impact Analysis Section Supervisor, July 20, and September 23, 1993 correspondence.



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

SITE: Gordon Site
ILD#: 984837815

ILLINOIS STATE MAP

LEGEND: ● Site Location



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

SITE: Gordon Site
ILD#: 984837815

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH 1982

Site Boundary: ———

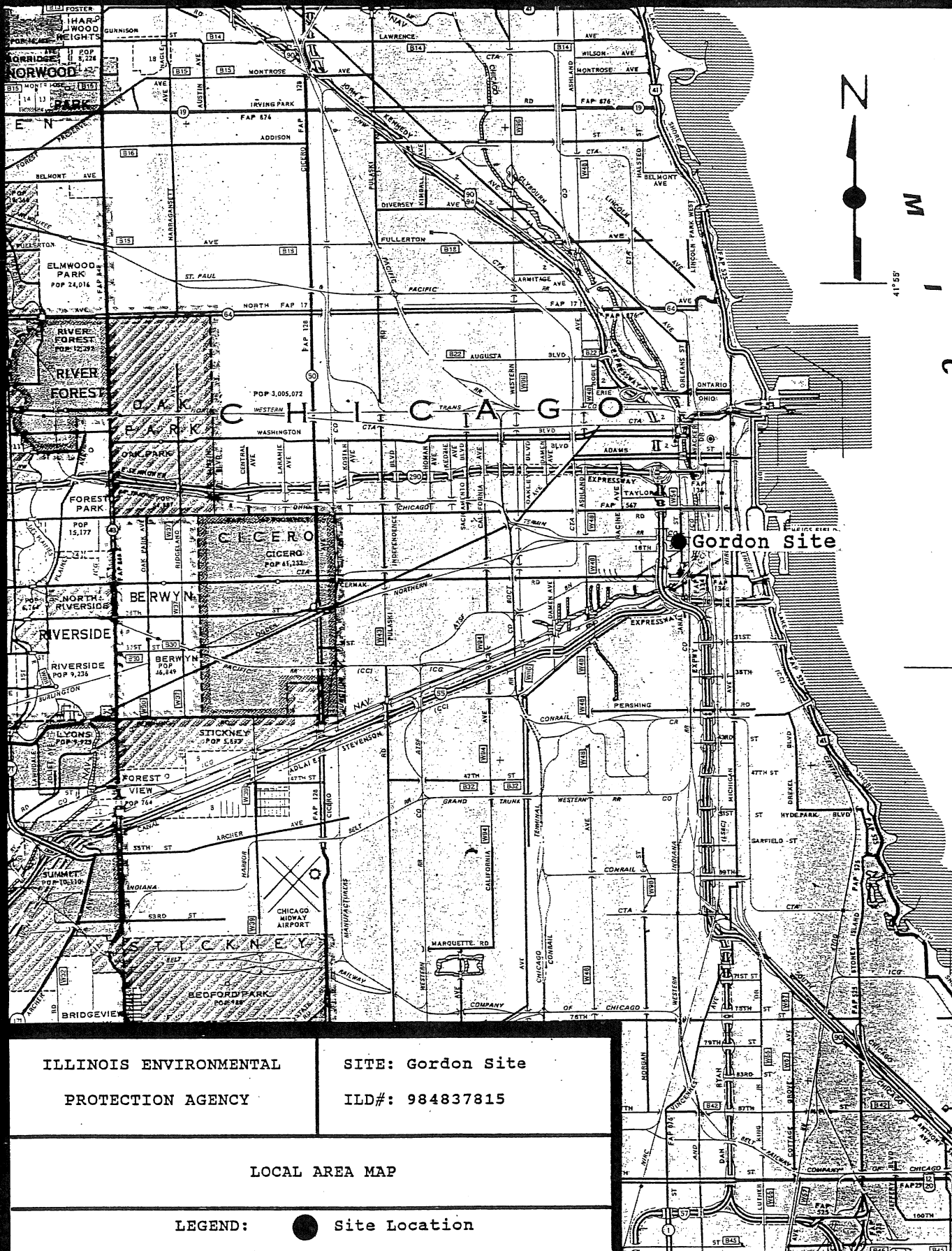


ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

SITE: Gordon Site
ILD#: 98487815

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH 1988

Site Boundary: —————

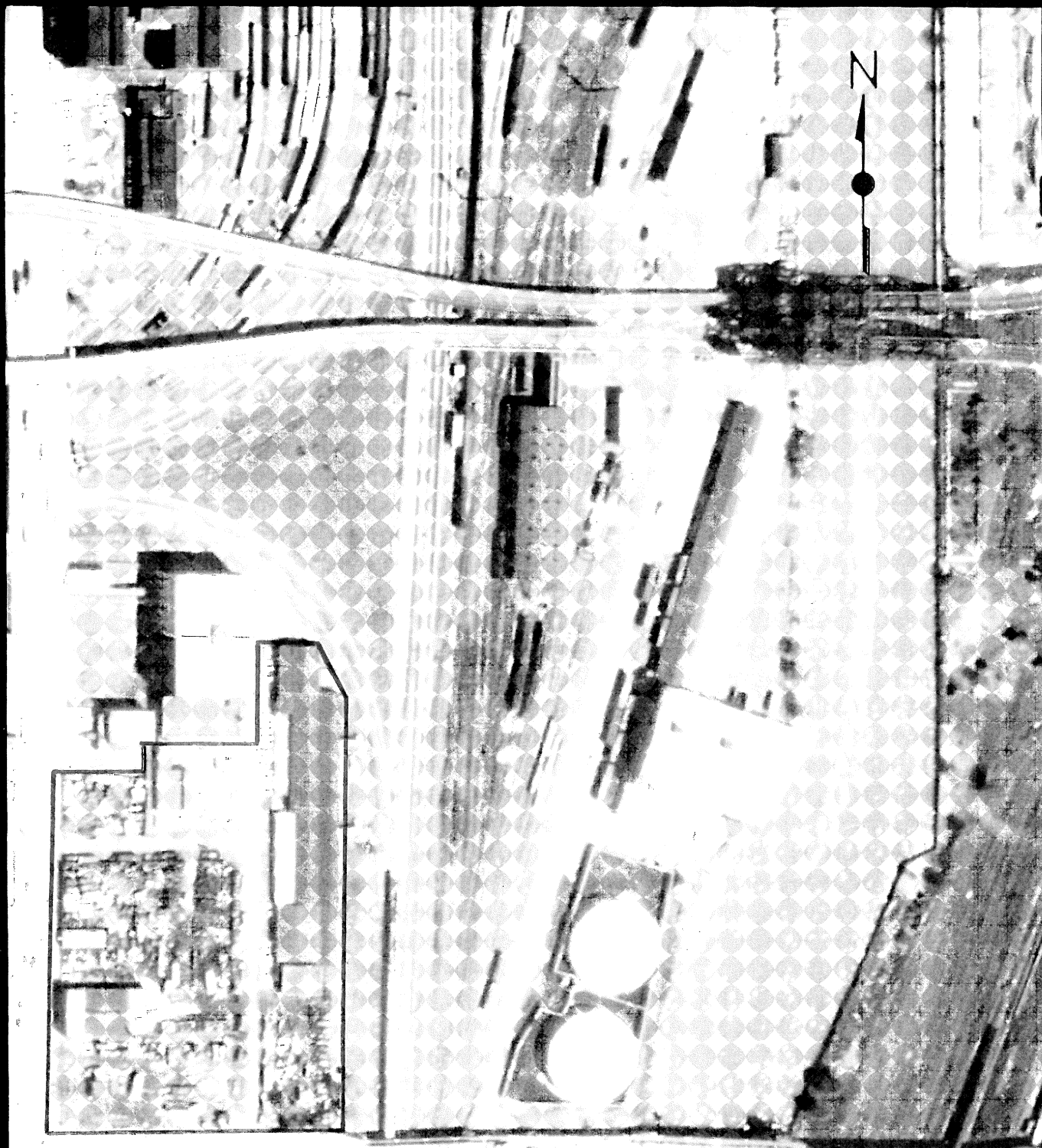


ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

SITE: Gordon Site
ILD#: 984837815

LOCAL AREA MAP

LEGEND: ● Site Location

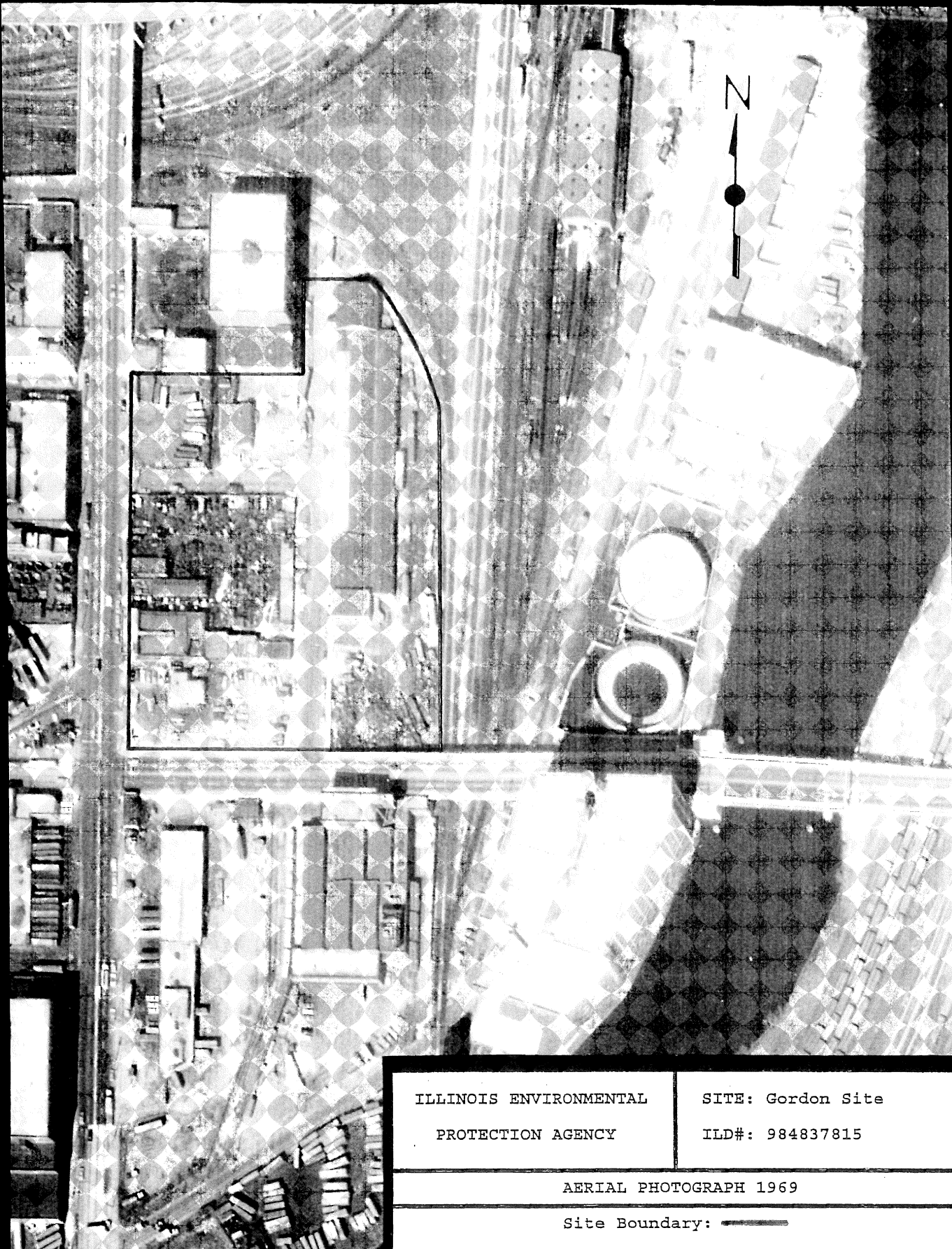


ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

SITE: Gordon Site
ILD#: 984837815

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH 1961

Site Boundary: ———



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

SITE: Gordon Site
ILD#: 984837815

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH 1969

Site Boundary: ———

DATE: July 7, 1993

TIME: 3:33 PM

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY:
Mark Weber

PHOTO NUMBER: 1

LOCATION: L0310000000
Cook County
Gordon Site
ILD 984837815

PHOTO TAKEN TOWARD:
East

Photograph of one of the
various piles of tires
found throughout the
facility.



DATE: July 7, 1993

TIME: 3:34 PM

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY:
Mark Weber

PHOTO NUMBER: 2

LOCATION: L0310000000
Cook County
Gordon Site
ILD 984837815

PHOTO TAKEN TOWARD:
North

Photograph was taken
along the alley that ran
through the center of
the facility.



DATE: July 7, 1993

TIME: 3:35 PM

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY:
Mark Weber

PHOTO NUMBER: 3

LOCATION: L0310000000
Cook County
Gordon Site
ILD 984837815

PHOTO TAKEN TOWARD:
East

Photo of the sign on the
main building at the
facility.



DATE: July 7, 1993

TIME: 3:35 PM

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY:
Mark Weber

PHOTO NUMBER: 4

LOCATION: L0310000000
Cook County
Gordon Site
ILD 984837815

PHOTO TAKEN TOWARD:
North

Photo of a resinous type
substance that appeared
to be contained in a
barrel at one time.



DATE: July 7, 1993

TIME: 3:37 PM

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY:
Mark Weber

PHOTO NUMBER: 5

LOCATION: L0310000000
Cook County
Gordon Site
ILD 984837815

PHOTO TAKEN TOWARD:
Northeast

Photo was taken to show
the various piles of
rubble encountered at
the site.



DATE: July 7, 1993

TIME: 3:47 PM

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY:
Mark Weber

PHOTO NUMBER: 6

LOCATION: L0310000000
Cook County
Gordon Site
ILD 984837815

PHOTO TAKEN TOWARD:
North

Photo was taken from the
unpaved area at the site
to give a feeling for
the size of the site.



DATE: July 7, 1993

TIME: 3:47 PM

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY:
Mark Weber

PHOTO NUMBER: 7

LOCATION: L0310000000
Cook County
Gordon Site
ILD 984837815

PHOTO TAKEN TOWARD:
Northeast

Taken from the same spot
as photo six to show the
main building at the
site.



DATE: July 7, 1993

TIME: 3:48 PM

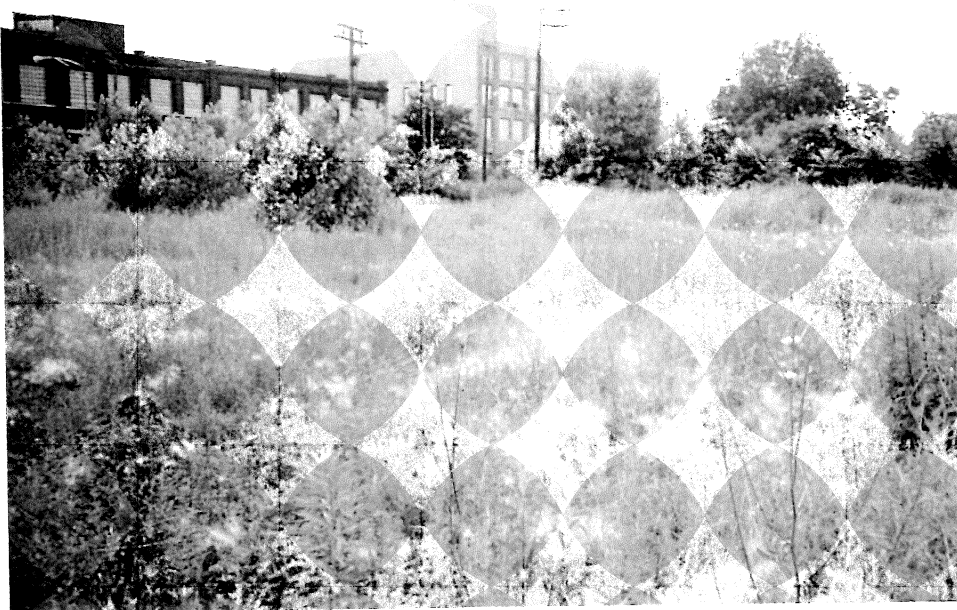
PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY:
Mark Weber

PHOTO NUMBER: 8

LOCATION: L0310000000
Cook County
Gordon Site
ILD 984837815

PHOTO TAKEN TOWARD:
Northeast

Taken from the same area
as 6 and 7 showing the
field composed of fill
material at the site.



DATE: July 7, 1993

TIME: 3:50 PM

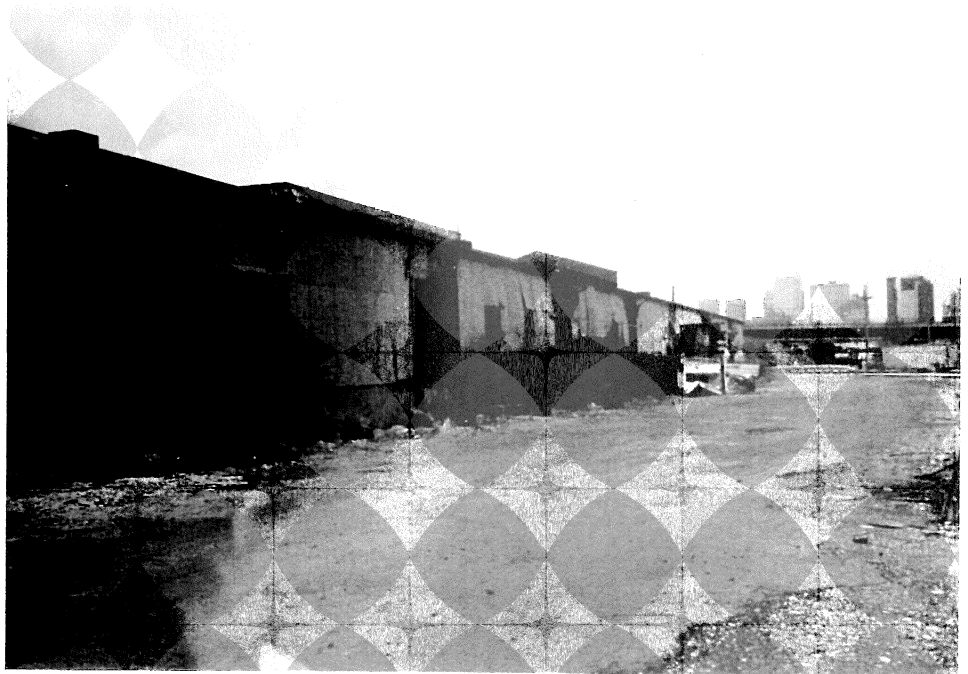
PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY:
Mark Weber

PHOTO NUMBER: 9

LOCATION: L0310000000
Cook County
Gordon Site
ILD 984837815

PHOTO TAKEN TOWARD:
Northwest

Taken along the railroad
at the eastern border of
the facility.



DATE: July 7, 1993

TIME: 3:50 PM

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY:
Mark Weber

PHOTO NUMBER: 10

LOCATION: L0310000000
Cook County
Gordon Site
ILD 984837815

PHOTO TAKEN TOWARD:
Southwest

Did not develop.



Illinois Department of Conservation

LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62701-1787 CHICAGO OFFICE • ROOM 4-300 • 100 WEST RANDOLPH • CHICAGO 60601

Brent Manning, Director

John W. Comerio, Deputy Director

Bruce F. Clay, Assistant Director

July 20, 1993

Mr. Mark Weber
LPC/IEPA
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

Re: ILD #984837815
Cook County

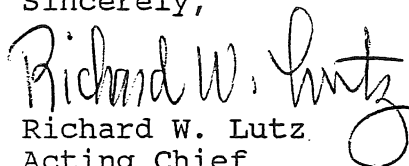
Dear Mr. Weber:

Thank you for your July 12, 1993 inquiry regarding the above noted CERCLIS Project in Cook County, Illinois.

Based on our review there are no sensitive resources (form attached) on-site, or in the 0-1/4, 1/4-1/2 or 1/2 to 1 mile radius of the site. No waterpath was identified for the site.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,


Richard W. Lutz
Acting Chief

Division of Impact Analysis

RWL:mcp

attachment: sensitive resources form

RECEIVED
JUL 21 1993
IEPA/ULPC

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION IDENTIFICATION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVE AREAS

LD #984837815

— = none known in area

TARGET DISTANCE CATEGORIES

SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTS	On-site	0-1/4 mile	1/4-1/2 mile	stream milage
I. Critical habitat for Federally designated or proposed endangered or threatened species	—	—	—	—
II. Habitat known to be used by Federally designated or proposed endangered or threatened species	—	—	—	—
III. State wildlife refuge	—	—	—	—
IV. Spawning areas critical for the maintenance of fish/shellfish species within a river system	—	—	—	—
V. Terrestrial areas utilized by large or dense aggregations of verbebrate animals for breeding	—	—	—	—
VI. Habitat known to be used by State designated or threatened species	—	—	—	—
VII. Habitat known to be used by a species under review as to its Federal endangered or threatened status	—	—	—	—
VIII. State lands designated for wildlife or game management	—	—	—	—
IX. State designated natural area	—	—	—	—
X. Particular areas, relatively small in size, important to the maintenance of unique biotic communities	—	—	—	—

If any of the sensitive areas identified above exist within the designated target distance limits, please post an asterisk (*) in the appropriate column.



Illinois Department of Conservation

LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62701-1787 CHICAGO OFFICE • ROOM 4-300 • 100 WEST RANDOLPH • CHICAGO 60601

Brent Manning, Director

John W. Comerio, Deputy Director

Bruce F. Clay, Assistant Director

September 23, 1993

Mr. Mark J. Weber
LPC/IEPA
2200 Churchill Road
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

Re: ILD #984837815
Cook County, Illinois

Dear Mr. Weber:

In response to your September 14, 1993 request we have examined the waterpath for this proposed CERCLIS project for "sensitive areas".

There are no sensitive resources (form attached) in or immediately adjacent to this waterpath (Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Richard W. Lutz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "L" and "t".

Richard W. Lutz
Acting Chief
Division of Impact Analysis

RWL:mcp

RECEIVED
SEP 24 1993
IEPA/DLPC

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION IDENTIFICATION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVE AREAS

ILD# 984837815

— = known in area

TARGET DISTANCE CATEGORIES

SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTS	On-site	0-1/4 mile	1/4-1/2 mile	<u>stream mileage</u>
I. Critical habitat for Federally designated or proposed endangered or threatened species				—
II. Habitat known to be used by Federally designated or proposed endangered or threatened species				—
III. State wildlife refuge				—
IV. Spawning areas critical for the maintenance of fish/shellfish species within a river system				—
V. Terrestrial areas utilized by large or dense aggregations of vertebrate animals for breeding				—
VI. Habitat known to be used by State designated or threatened species				—
VII. Habitat known to be used by a species under review as to its Federal endangered or threatened status				—
VIII. State lands designated for wildlife or game management				—
IX. State designated natural area				—
X. Particular areas, relatively small in size, important to the maintenance of unique biotic communities				—

If any of the sensitive areas identified above exist within the designated target distance limits, please post an asterisk (*) in the appropriate column.